

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>REPORT TO :</b>	<b>County Council</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>8 September, 2020</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20</b>
<b>REPORT BY:</b>	<b>Chairs of:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Corporate Scrutiny Committee</b></li> <li><b>2. Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</b></li> </ol>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>Report on the work of the two scrutiny committees during 2019/20 and provide an overview of the 2020/21 scrutiny work programme</b>
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## 1. Recommendations

The Council is requested to:

**R1** Approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20

**R2** Note the continued progress made in implementing our local Scrutiny development journey and the impact this is having on practice

**R3** Approve for the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to continue in his role as the Scrutiny Champion for the period May, 2020 to May, 2021 in accordance with the national and local arrangements as a result of the current pandemic.

## 2. Background and context

**2.1** This Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report encompasses the work undertaken by the two scrutiny committees between the Council's annual meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

**2.2** The chairs of the two scrutiny committees led on developing the forward work programmes during this period. The scrutiny committees' work programmes are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Committee Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each scrutiny committee meeting

**2.3** The Council's scrutiny function has been through an improvement journey over the last two years, as a result of commissioning the Public Centre for Scrutiny to review our local scrutiny arrangements (December, 2017). Now, there is a development programme in place in the context of continuous improvement, driving improvements and developments at an appropriate pace which are outlined within the report.

The impact and added value of scrutiny activity is contributing to the Council's corporate priorities through support and challenge.

## 3. Role of the Scrutiny Champion

**3.1** The Scrutiny Champion has an important role in promoting the overview and scrutiny function both within the Council and also with external partners of the Authority. It is not a mandatory or remunerated position. The role is considered

key in demonstrating the Authority's commitment to ensuring that Scrutiny maximises the contribution of non-Executive Members to the organisation's overall performance and "corporate health".

- 3.2** On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Council resolved that the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be appointed as Scrutiny Champion for the period May 2015 to May, 2016 and thereafter that the role of the Champion should alternate between the two scrutiny committee chairs. In accordance with local arrangements, the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will continue as the Scrutiny Champion for 2020/21.

<b>Appendix:</b>
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20



# **Overview and Scrutiny**

## **Annual Report: 2019-20**





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# 1. FOREWORD

## **Councillor Aled Morris Jones**

- **Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2019/20**
- **Scrutiny Champion 2019/20**



It is my pleasure to provide an overview of the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months. The scope of work of the Committee is discussed in this report and it is fair to note that the workload continues to be considerable and varied. A total of 10 meetings were convened during the municipal year in order to complete our work programme.

- **Annual budget setting 2020/21** – I feel that one of the most important responsibilities of the Committee is to contribute fully to the process of setting the Council's annual budget as this is a vital process which has a far-reaching impact on every field and service within the Council and on the public. The Committee considered the draft budget for 2020/21. As part of this process, the Committee considered the initial draft budgets, and also the responses to the public consultation, and contributed to the final proposals. The contribution of the **Finance Scrutiny Panel** has added value to the process, and detailed scrutiny work has been undertaken by the Panel which has assisted the Committee with its work in this area. In my opinion, considerable progress has been made over the last 2 years in terms of setting the budget, and the contribution that Scrutiny has made to this process. A strong foundation is in place now as we move towards preparing the budget annually from now on.
- **Quarterly monitoring of performance** – the Committee monitored performance on a quarterly basis during 2019/20, using the corporate scorecard which addresses a number of indicators for all individual services. The scorecard continues to evolve as an effective tool for Elected Member scrutiny of performance and the data of the various services.
- Our work as a committee has also included monitoring and scrutinising a number of **Annual Reports** including the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services, Social Services Complaints Annual Report, and the Annual Performance Report to name a few, which is a core element of the Committee's work.
- **Transformation priorities** – the Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered a number of significant issues over the last municipal year including the schools' modernisation programme in the Llangefni area.

**Community and other stakeholder engagement-** We are very grateful to all the various groups and individuals who have come before the Committee to give evidence on various issues. I feel that this is one of the most important aspects of Scrutiny and it is vital that we give an opportunity to stakeholders to contribute, listen to the voices and views of individuals within our community to inform our decisions.

I would like to thank members of both our panels, the **Finance Scrutiny Panel** and the **Social Services Improvement Panel** that have made a considerable contribution to the work of this Committee, and is seen as good practice nationally.

To close, I would like to stress that the Scrutiny function within the Council is continuing to develop year on year, and Member scrutiny has influenced the Council's decision-making process and has added value. Thank you to all Committee members and Officers who have assisted and for their noticeable contribution during 2019/20.

**Councillor Aled Morris Jones**

**(Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Champion).**

## **Councillor Gwilym O Jones**

- **Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 2019/20**



Scrutiny's role is vital within the Council as it ensures that the very best services are provided to the inhabitants of Anglesey, and enables the voices and concerns of the public and local communities to be heard. Scrutiny ensures that councils are transparent, including publishing timely comprehensive information in order to be able to hold decision makers to account. Also, participation within the scrutiny process is an important aspect. I feel that introducing the Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committees will be a positive step in the right direction through formalising the process for the public to be able to express their opinions openly in Scrutiny Committees.

Firstly, I would like to thank the Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for their contributions and tireless commitment to the work of the Committee which makes an important contribution to delivering the Council Plan and its improvement priorities, and sustaining the standards of our public services. I am also pleased to have an opportunity to provide a flavour of the work undertaken by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee over the last 12 months. The Committee has made fair and robust recommendations to the Executive on a number of subjects and key areas over this period, and the partnership work of the Authority.

- Scrutiny work of the successful collaboration work which exists between the **Council, the Health Board, and organisations such as Medrwn Môn**, with a focus on ensuring that they support vulnerable adults in our communities, and that high quality health and social services are provided. Successful projects between the organisations have been implemented such as the Night Owls service between the **Authority and Welsh Ambulance Services Trust** which alleviates the pressure on the ambulance services, and continues to treat and care for vulnerable adults without them needing to go to hospital. This important scrutiny work will continue during 2020/21.
- **Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board (PSB)** – the Committee has been designated to lead on scrutinising the work of the Board which is a partnership between Gwynedd and Môn, including the work on delivering the Anglesey and Gwynedd Wellbeing Plan, and the governance arrangements. We have seen excellent examples of scrutiny work with Members enquiring about the risks faced by the Board, and the proposed mitigation measures that will be implemented to address these. The work of challenging the Board has been effective with actions deriving from the meetings, which supports the work of improving the performance and results of the Board.
- **Schools' performance** – The Committee has a key contribution in terms of helping the Learning Service to improve schools' performance, and has scrutinised the Schools Standards Report and GwE's work on the Island during the year. The work and contribution of the Schools Progress Review Panel is key in terms of monitoring schools' performance

and to hold them to account. Members of the Panel visit primary and secondary schools before they come before the Panel in order to have a comprehensive overview of the schools before they scrutinise performance. In this way the Panel has challenged individual schools, and ensured that Schools' Head Teachers and Governors are accountable for the performance of schools. Members of the Panel have an understanding of the risks and challenges faced by individual schools to assist them to scrutinise schools' data and performance. The Panel took part in the collaborative project on standards across 4 primary schools, with the Panel afforded the opportunity to observe students' work, which was an unique model of working, and this is an example of the Council undertaking innovative scrutiny activity.

- **Other partnerships** – during the past 12 months, the Committee has scrutinised a number of reports which is a core and important element of ensuring that partnership work is adding value to the Council's work. The Committee scrutinised the North Wales Partnership Board Annual Report, and the Community Safety Partnership Annual Report, and the Corporate Safeguarding Report (ensuring that the Council executes its role in a way that safeguards and promotes the wellbeing of at risk children and adults). Also, a number of partners have come before the Committee including **North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, and Welsh Ambulance Services Trust**, and the Members undertook detailed scrutiny and questioning on their work on the Island in order to ensure the very best public services for the inhabitants of Anglesey.

The Committee scrutinised the proposals for the **Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Services**- the proposals were considered for the future services and the need to develop sustainable opportunities through service modernisation. The Committee submitted recommendations to the Executive, which had an impact on the final decision through amending the proposals in which the Council are going to consult on.

I would like to that all members of the Partnership and Regeneration Committee, and the Schools Progress Review Panel for the effective work over the last year, for their detailed scrutiny work which is having an obvious impact on the Council's decisions, and which ensures that the interest of the inhabitants of Anglesey is at the core of everything the Council does.

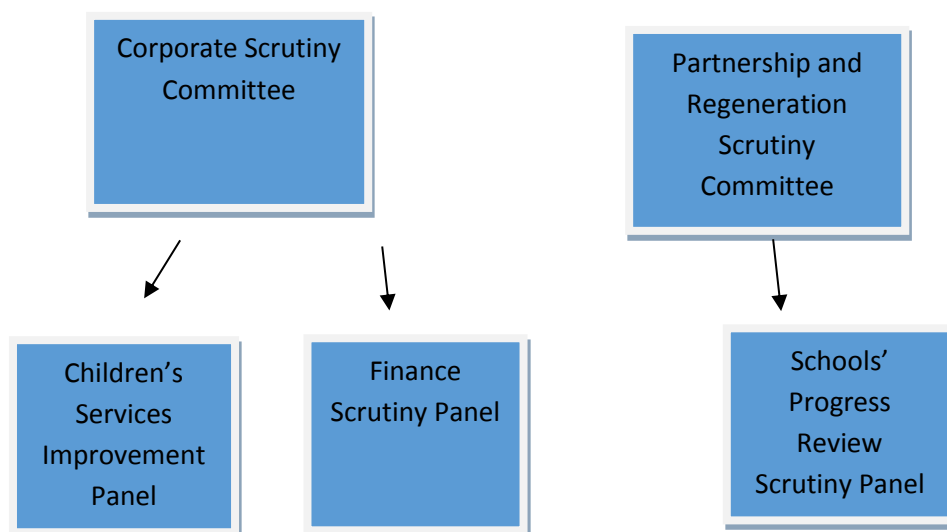
**Councillor Gwilym O Jones**

**(Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)**

## **2.0 OUR LOCAL STRUCTURE**

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. Their prime role is to hold the decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review. A summary of the national policy context is outlined in **APPENDIX 1**.

2.1 Our local structure comprises of 2 scrutiny committees and three panels:



The remit and membership of our scrutiny committees are summarised in **APPENDIX 2**.

### 3.0 LOCAL SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY

3.1 The Council's scrutiny function has been through an improvement journey over the last two years, as a result of commissioning the Public Centre for Scrutiny to review our local scrutiny arrangements (December, 2017). The improvement programme put in place as a result of the review has now come to an end, and a development programme has now replaced it within the context of continuous improvement. The review provided a strong foundation to develop scrutiny role within the Council, and supports a robust and effective method of making decisions, and continues to evolve in a positive manner. These strong foundations are now the basis for the development programme which drives improvements and developments at an appropriate pace.

#### 3.2 Key Improvement Themes

Again this year, our improvement programme has prioritised a number of key themes (which are summarised below), in order to provide a robust framework to:

- Clarify the role and contribution of Scrutiny in the governance arrangements of the Council
- Identify the actions required in the short and medium term in order to further improve Scrutiny.

#### SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY: KEY THEMES



Improving public  
engagement in our  
Scrutiny work

Well-Being of Future  
Generations and  
Scrutiny

We have recently adopted a development programme which provides a local framework for continuing with our Scrutiny journey. In Paragraph 5 below, there is a summary of the progress made over the last year, and it begins to measure the impact of the improvements made.

### 3.3 Wales Audit Office Review of Public Services Boards

Wales Audit Office (WAO) undertook a review of the local authorities' scrutiny arrangements on the work of the Public Services Board during October 2019. The report was positive with aspects of good practice. Two recommendations were noted to improve the current scrutiny arrangements in general namely:

1. that PSBs and public bodies use the findings of the Discussion Paper: Six themes to help make Scrutiny 'Fit for the Future' by Auditor General for Wales to review their current performance, and note where they need to strengthen arrangements and overview function.
2. that PSBs ensure that scrutiny committees engage sufficiently with a broader range of stakeholders that can help hold PSBs to account.

As a result, these recommendations were addressed in a proactive manner, and the progress made has been outlined in the Impact of Scrutiny Journey for 2019.20 table in paragraph 4.3 of this report.

## 4 ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY

4.1 A number of significant **outputs** were achieved by Scrutiny during the last municipal year which go some way in assisting us to assess the impact that the function has had locally:

- **Committee meetings** – a total of 20 scrutiny committee meetings were convened during 2019/20

Committee	Number of Committees convened
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	10
Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	10

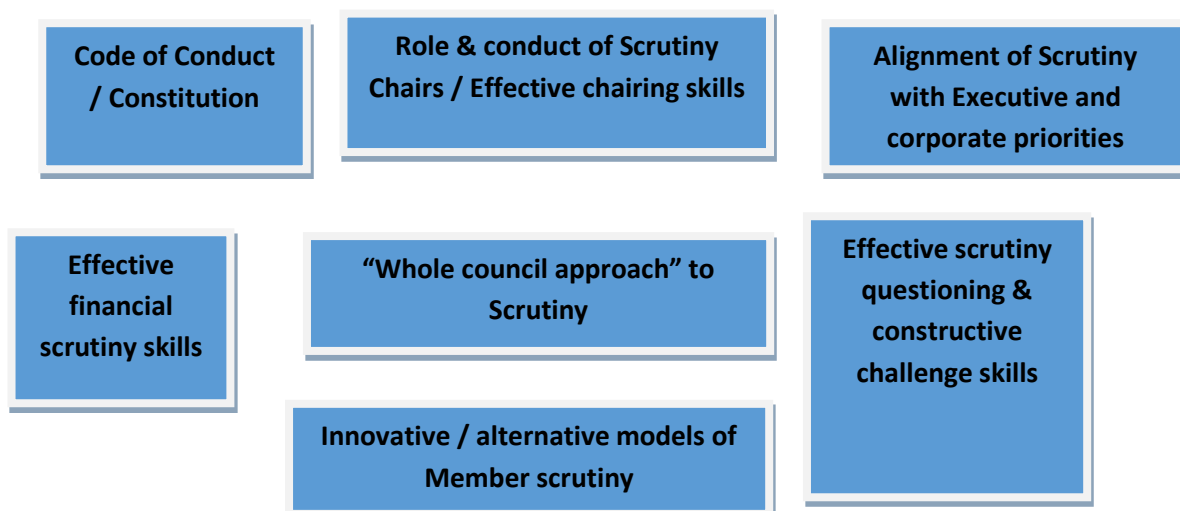
There are also robust arrangements in place to ensure feedback at meetings of the Executive by scrutiny committee chairs on matters that have been considered by both committees.

- **Scrutiny Panel meetings** – there have been regular meetings of all 3 scrutiny panels during 2019/20

Panel	Number of meetings convened
Social Services Improvement Panel	8
Finance Scrutiny Panel	7
Schools Progress Review Panel	7

These panels have been embedded into practice by:

- ✚ Putting in place robust governance arrangements to support each panel.
  - ✚ Ensuring a clear focus / remit and work programme for each panel.
  - ✚ Putting in place a reporting / escalation process ensuring that the work of scrutiny panels is reported quarterly to the two Parent Committees, with Chairs of the Panel offering recommendations on plans or proposed decisions.
  - ✚ Ensure appropriate pace for the work of the panels, which is in line with corporate priorities, and detailed scrutiny on Council's all important subjects.
- **Forward work programmes** – there is a well-established practice of forward work programming in place to underpin the work of both scrutiny committees. These programmes are an important tool in assisting scrutiny committee members to prioritise their work and have been discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their forward work programmes on a regular basis in order to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:
    - i. Strategic aspects
    - ii. Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
    - iii. Priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and corporate transformation programmes
    - iv. Risks
    - v. Work of audit, inspection and regulation
    - vi. Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.
  - **Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum** – is well established and continues to meet on a monthly basis. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee the scrutiny committee work programmes and jointly negotiate priorities with the Scrutiny Committees' Chairs and Vice-chairs. It also takes lead responsibility for developing and continuously improving the overview and scrutiny function in the Council. The role of the Forum has also evolved to include monthly conversations between the Executive (Leader), Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny and the Senior Leadership Team (Chief Executive) to ensure better alignment between work programmes.
  - **Development, training and support for Members** – by:
    - ✚ Putting in place a phased, bespoke development programme which focuses on the key elements of governance / scrutiny:



- ✚ Convening monthly awareness raising sessions to share information/ raise Scrutiny Members' awareness of key issues (e.g. Wellbeing of Future Generations, role of the Public Services Board). Also, as a forum for Member self-evaluation / reflection on the performance of scrutiny.
- **Scrutiny across a broader base** – a broader approach to Member scrutiny has been further developed during the year by:
  - i. Effective forward planning to ensure alignment between topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, scrutiny panels and full scrutiny committee meetings.
  - ii. Ensuring clarity of role for Members on corporate programme boards and ensuring robust, timely high level reporting to scrutiny committees, escalating slippage as required.
  - iii. Developing the breadth of topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, in support of Scrutiny and ensuring information available to Members on strategic and transformation topics.
- **“Closing the Scrutiny loop”** – by having in place robust arrangements to:
  - i. Report on progress or escalate issues from:
    - ✚ Scrutiny panels to parent committees
    - ✚ Scrutiny committees to the Executive
    - ✚ Corporate programme boards to scrutiny committees.
  - ii. Enable and encourage self-analysis and reflection by Scrutiny Members in order to identify strengths and areas for further development / focus.
- **Scrutiny & Wellbeing of Future Generations** – developing the role of Scrutiny by:
  - ✚ Ensuring Members focus on the 5 ways of working to frame questions
  - ✚ Developing a revised scrutiny report template, placing wellbeing of future generations at its core
  - ✚ Raising awareness and providing information in Member briefing and development sessions
  - ✚ Reviewing progress made in developing the role of scrutiny against best practice
  - ✚ Putting in place a framework to scrutinise the Public Services Board and key partnerships.
- 1. **Citizen engagement in Scrutiny** – developing a policy statement as the foundation to further develop our engagement with citizens through Member scrutiny and putting steps in place to ensure that the voice of citizens is heard in the local decision making process. Both Scrutiny Committees as well as the Executive have approved the Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committees, and it will be adopted subject to formal approval of the Full Council in September, 2020. The aim of the Protocol is to further strengthen our engagement arrangements by having a robust framework in place. The Protocol will ensure that the voice of the people and communities of Anglesey are heard and included

as part of the decision making process, and ensuring that the public is provided with a clear and accessible process for making their views known to the Scrutiny Committees.

### Measuring outcomes:

4.2 Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is a challenge to achieve as the **outcomes** of overview and scrutiny activities are not always tangible and often do not easily lend themselves to being measured in a systematic way. Furthermore, it is not easy to measure the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny function's ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. There are however some examples where the input of scrutiny has added value and / or influenced the way in which proposals have been implemented by the Council.

### General Scrutiny Outcomes

- **Forward work programmes** – scrutiny work programmes are now a rolling programme focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items in order to add value. Our arrangements also ensure alignment of Scrutiny Committees' work programmes with the Executive and Senior Leadership Team work programmes.  
**Outcome:** rolling work programme for scrutiny committees, aligned to corporate priorities.
- **Development, training and support for Members** – ensuring that Elected Members involved in Scrutiny have the right skills and competencies to undertake the work is a key element of the Councils scrutiny arrangements. A Member Development and Training Plan is in place, which includes elements such as chairing meetings, deciding for the benefit of future generations (Future Generations Act 2015), with an 'Introduction to Scrutiny' e-module available for all elected members. The monthly members briefing sessions are informal development sessions, and a means of receiving information which assists them to scrutinise.  
**Outcome:** Members involved in the Scrutiny process have the right skills and competencies and have access to the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively (**better decisions**).
- **Citizen engagement and participation** – scrutiny input to the **schools' modernisation programme** (Llangefni Area) also included direct engagement with and contribution from school governors, parents and local communities during the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, which added value to the decision making process.
- Local Elected Members contributed towards the discussion regarding **Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Services** in the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee expressing concerns on behalf of the community, and ensuring that their voices were heard in this process of deciding on developing the current provision. As a result of their contributions, scrutiny comments had a direct influence on the wording of the final proposals submitted to the Executive for approval.  
**Outcome:** this involvement by local people and other stakeholders in Member scrutiny has further developed our capability to ensure that the voices of local people are heard as part of the decision making process (**better public engagement**). Also, a strong foundation upon which to improve outcomes for citizens.
- **Self evaluation; Measuring the impact of scrutiny-** evaluating the impact of the improvement journey and the key themes outlined as part of this journey namely; Reinforcing a whole Council approach to Scrutiny; Wellbeing of Future Generations and Scrutiny; improving the impact of scrutiny; Increasing scrutiny's capacity and abilities;

Improving engagement with the public in our scrutiny work. As part of the assessment the recent scrutiny successes were highlighted, and the areas for further improvement to drive scrutiny work. It was noted that the Members' level of understanding of the complexities of various Council services had increased significantly over the year.

### **Financial Scrutiny**

- **2020/21 budget setting process** – a more strategic and outcome based approach to budget setting based on best practice is embedded into local practice. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee concentrated its efforts on a number of key issues and have submitted recommendations to the Executive in terms of setting the budget for 2020/21. The Finance Scrutiny Panel has played an important role in this process too through scrutinising the initial proposals for the revenue and capital budgets, and the final budget proposals. The Scrutiny comments and recommendations influenced the Council's final decision. Also, the Finance Scrutiny Panel undertook detailed scrutiny work in terms of considering setting the council tax in a way that protected the Council's services and ensured provision for the risks that are difficult to measure, and which is affordable for the public. In summary, The Panel and the Committee added value to the decision making process.

**Outcome:** a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance.

- **Monitoring Capital and Revenue Budgets-** The Panel scrutinise and monitor the council's capital and revenue budgets quarterly, focusing on overspend and addressing any financial pressures. Furthermore, the Panel receive presentations from services facing significant financial pressures and who overspend in order to identify any possible mitigation measures. The Panel has scrutinised the Council's Generating Income Strategy in order to ensure maximum impact.
- We continue to work side by side with CIPFA Cymru to develop our finance scrutiny journey, with CIPFA Cymru providing guidance and professional advice as a critical friend. We intend to build on these strong foundations, and continue to develop the financial scrutiny function within the Council. A development workshop was held outlining the role of the 151 Officer within the Council, and contribution from CIPFA Cymru outlining the role of financial scrutiny- principle and process, in order to enrich the Members' knowledge, and provide them with the necessary skills to scrutinise the financial aspects. The workshop provided the opportunity to identify priorities in moving forward, and development areas for the Panel in order to have greater influence and impact.

### **Outcomes:**

- A more strategic approach to financial scrutiny making a robust and important contribution towards financial management and governance arrangements.
- Implementation of some positive mitigation measures by Children's Services and the Learning Service in response to significant budget pressures.

### **Scrutinising Social Services**

- **Social Services Improvement Scrutiny Panel** – This Panel has now combined Children's Services and Adults Social Services under Social Services umbrella, in order to enable a robust forum to scrutinise all aspects of the service's work as a whole. The Panel has been scrutinising the progress of the Adults improvement plan, and the children's services development plan, and have received quarterly updates on the

Care Inspectorate Wales' recommendations. This work has also seen Members receiving training and awareness raising sessions in order to enrich their knowledge regarding the field and the challenges to assist them to scrutinise this vital field, and as a result further developing their Scrutiny skills in the social services area. The Laming visits continued as a key process for the Members to scrutinise aspects of Social Services. Scrutinising the performance of Social Services is also a substantial aspect of the Panel's work programme.

This work stream has led to the below positive outcomes:

**Outcomes:**

- ✚ A team of Members who have developed a high level of knowledge about the complexities and the challenges the social services face, and a level of expertise in the service area.
- ✚ Creating conditions that are conducive to effective Scrutiny e.g. there has been a tangible improvement in the level and depth of questioning by the Panel that are challenging and promote continuous improvement.
- ✚ Scrutiny activity that is well planned, efficient and objective and based on evidence from a range of sources including undertaking Site Visits and speaking to service users which provides a clear insights to the standard of the provision in order to scrutinise the field.
- ✚ Better understanding by Elected Members of the complexities and risks in Social Services in order to be able to effectively scrutinise, hold to account and identify priorities in moving forward as a result of the range of sources that are available to them.
- ✚ A broad overview of the performance of Social Services- financial performance and performance against the Improvement Plan.

***(better decisions, better outcomes)***

**Scrutinising the Education field**

- **Monitoring School Performance** – Scrutiny is playing an active part in monitoring and encouraging improvement by both schools and the Council's Learning Service.

Since May 2019, Members of the Schools Progress Review Scrutiny Panel have:

- Met with Head Teachers and Chair of Governors of two primary schools.
- Met with teachers and Head teachers of the Foundation Phase Cluster Leadership Group who aim to assist schools with strengthening performance in the Foundation phase.
- Received school performance updates from officers of the Regional School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales (GwE).
- Attended GwE and the Learning Service shadowing activities; including cluster work, individual school activities, have attended a number of training sessions conducted by GwE, and have monitored standards by visiting individual schools and in the meetings of the Panel.
- Monitored implementation of the Learning Service Action Plan.
- Met with one of Estyn's Schools Inspectors, where the valuable contribution of the Panel was mentioned in terms of sustaining teaching standards on Anglesey.

- Undertook a self-evaluation exercise
- Submit timely progress reports to the parent committee.

A Development Workshop was held to decide on the priorities and development areas for the next period and also to inform the Panel's work programme in an effective way. It was decided to continue with the arrangement of scrutinising standards in individual schools, shadowing GwE and the Learning Service, closing the cycle so that the contribution of the Panel reaches the parent Committee/the Executive. It was felt that there was a need to further strengthen the role of Elected Members as School Governors (critical friend).

Very constructive comments were received from a Head Teacher of a primary school after he came before the Panel, and he noted that the collaboration work with the Panel had been constructive and valuable for the school. He noted that he had been able to demonstrate the collaboration work between the school and the Panel to Estyn's Inspectors as part of the discussions that led the school being taken out of the Significant Improvement category.

### **Outcomes:**

- ✚ The responsibility for school performance ultimately lies with the Head teacher and School Governing Body. However, constructive scrutiny by the Panel and the Committee during this period has contributed to improvement of education on the Island.
- ✚ Panel Members have sound knowledge of the schools' complexities and risks which is of great assistance to them when effectively scrutinising individual schools performance, holding them to account as they have complete information about individual school standards and the wider context the schools operate within.

- **Working in collaboration with key partners**

Scrutinising the Council's work of working in partnership with other public sector organisations is vital and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) 2015 Act reinforces the need to further strengthen scrutiny of partnerships. The Partnership and Regeneration Committee has scrutinise a number of partners during the last civic year including North Wales Fire and Rescue Service, the Police and Crime Commissioner and North Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and North Wales Regional Emergency Planning to name a few.

### **Outcomes:**

- ✚ Ensured that partners are working together to meet statutory obligations in terms of working together. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee assured that partners are working effectively on the Island, and that the services offered are of high standard and meet the needs of the local population.
- ✚ During this period Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee have enhanced their knowledge, and will be in a stronger position to provide effective scrutiny by way of regular monitoring in moving forward.
- ✚ The Committee's forward programme has matured, and the Members have a developed thorough knowledge about the Council's partnership work. Also, the scrutiny questions challenges the partnership work, and are a way of ensuring that the

partnership work contributes towards achieving the Council Plan, and offers first class services to Anglesey's inhabitants.

- **Scrutiny of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board**

Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Services Board was established in 2016, in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which emphasises the need to scrutinise partnerships, and the need for public bodies to work in collaboration in order to ensure the very best results now and in the future. The progress in terms of delivering the Wellbeing Plan was scrutinised on 10 March, 2020.

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee continued to scrutinise the partnership during this period.

**Outcomes:**

- ✚ Scrutinising the governance structure and delivery arrangements of the PSB. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee assured that governance arrangements complied with statutory requirements and no changes required at present.
- ✚ The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the pace of implementing the work streams of the Wellbeing Plan, and received confirmation of the main risks and the mitigation measures, and the practical steps taken by the Board in order to integrate its priorities into plans and strategies of other public bodies.

**Measuring the Impact of our Development Journey:**

The table below summarises the impact of some of our key development areas during 2019/20:

**IMPACT OF OUR SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY**

Priority Area	How	Outcome
<b>Scrutiny Vision</b>	<p>We have ensured a whole Council approach to scrutiny.</p> <p>The Council has a Scrutiny Champion to ensure a supportive environment for scrutiny to succeed.</p> <p>Strong foundations laid by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs to improve outcomes for the</p>	<p>Evidence → increase in Member confidence; better scrutiny in committees; questioning strategy; quality of Member contributions in panel work and maturity of questioning strategies; feeling of Team Scrutiny amongst most Members.</p> <p><b>(better decisions, better outcomes)</b></p>

	public, better decisions and governance.	
<b>Scrutiny forward work programmes</b>	<p>Further developed our arrangements and have put more emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic aspects</li> <li>• Public engagement</li> <li>• The priorities of the Council Plan (2017/22), and corporate transformation programmes</li> <li>• risks</li> <li>• audit, investigation and regulation work</li> <li>• Items on the Executive's work programme</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have developed a covering report for the work programme which is presented in every Scrutiny Committee.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme alignment conversations with the Leader and Chief Executive at the Scrutiny Chairs/Vice-Chairs Forum (monthly).</li> <li>• Monthly discussion between the Leader, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager.</li> <li>• Regular alignment conversations →</li> </ul>	<p>Rolling work programmes concentrating on less items in order to add value, and concentrate on the quality of scrutiny.</p> <p><b>Alignment</b> – have ensured effective forward planning in order to ensure alignment between topics discussed in Members briefing sessions, scrutiny panels, and scrutiny committee meetings. Alignment between work programmes across the Council.</p> <p>Well planned, effective and objective scrutiny.</p> <p>(better decisions)</p>

	scrutiny officers and heads of service.	
<b>More innovative methods of Scrutiny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scrutiny Panel's Contribution-</b> the Panels have been a means of scrutinising specific services and matters in more detail, and report to the Scrutiny Committees in order to inform decisions. This has included reviewing and developing the work programmes of the Panel.</li> <li>• <b>Self-evaluation-</b> The three panels undertake regular self-evaluations and report on progress to the two parent Committees in order to measure successes, and to identify priorities in moving forward.</li> <li>• <b>Scrutiny outside of Committees-</b> the monthly briefing sessions are a way of scrutinising key areas outside of formal meetings, which assists the Members to undertake informed scrutiny in the Scrutiny Panels and Committees as a result.</li> </ul>	More innovative methods of undertaking the scrutiny work (SAC proposal for improvement), leading to better results and more impact. (better decisions, better outcomes).

<b>Scrutiny Template</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following trialling a new scrutiny template, which includes clear scrutiny questions, compliance with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015, the template is now operational and has had an impact on the depth of the questioning in the meetings.</li> </ul>	<p>Clarity of Scrutiny role → concise objectives, clear scrutiny questions, compliance with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.</p> <p><b>(better decisions)</b></p>
<b>Member development, training and support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A scrutiny development programme has been developed.</li> <li>Monthly briefing sessions are held which correspond to various items on the Committee work programmes.</li> <li>Finance scrutiny-development workshop facilitated by CIPFA held August 2019.</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Engagement</b>	The Scrutiny Committee meetings are advertised on the Council's social media.	<b>(Better outcomes, better decisions, better engagement)</b>

	<p>A Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committee has been developed, and it will be operational subject to the full Council's approval.</p> <p>Ensured the voice of the public as part of strategic matters; Transformation of Learning Disabilities Day Services, and Schools Modernisation Programme.</p>	
<b>Public Services Board (PSB)</b>	<p>A programme was put in place in order to address the two recommendations made by Wales Audit Office on Public Services Boards.</p> <p>Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager has worked closely with the Council's scrutiny function; has agreed on scrutiny schedules, and the areas to be scrutinised (scrutinise the delivery of the Wellbeing Plan, the Annual Report and the governance arrangements). They have also worked in collaboration in order to align scrutiny cycles to coincide with the Board's meetings.</p> <p>The PSB share information and minutes to ensure that the scrutiny committees has the necessary information to scrutinise effectively.</p>	<p>Effective scrutiny of the work of the Public Services Board, an increase in the Members' confidence and understanding as a result of receiving regular reports on the progress of the work.</p> <p>Compliance with national guidance.</p> <p>(better engagement)</p>

	The Leaders of the PSB sub-groups have been invited to the scrutiny committee meetings, which ensures more comprehensive presentations on the progress of the work of the sub-groups.	
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#### 4.4 Self-assessment of Scrutiny effectiveness

Our work around measuring the outcomes and impact of Scrutiny practice in the Council has also included some survey work with Members again this year, through small group discussions with Scrutiny Members and the Senior Leadership Team.

##### Self-assessment core questions:

- What were the highlights in Scrutiny during the past year?
- In your opinion, what impact did Scrutiny have during 2019/20 in supporting the Executive to make effective decisions?
- Are there any aspects that could be improved or delivered more effectively in the future?
- What development needs do you have to support you in the role?
- Any general observations on the influence and / or impact on the work of Scrutiny Members in the decision making processes?
- In your opinion, are there opportunities to further develop the scrutiny function within the Council?

##### What our Members had to say...

###### A. Scrutiny Members

Below is a flavour of what the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs had to say during discussions about the impact of Scrutiny during the Scrutiny Committee's Chairs and Vice-Chairs Forum. The findings of this exercise have fed into our improvement priorities for 2020/21.

### LOOKING BACK

We have had a number of opportunities during the year to scrutinise in detail on a number of areas, and we have most definitely added value to a number of decisions made by the Executive and full Council for the benefit of the public. The Members work well together and I am extremely grateful for their good scrutiny which continues to develop.

Scrutinising the partnership work between Health and Social Services can for example be more challenging for the Members I feel, and as a result it is more difficult to think of scrutiny questions.

The Schools Progress Review Panel's scrutiny arrangements are very effective as the Members are well informed of the Learning Service and GwE's shadowing arrangements as they attend relevant training offered to teachers, and visit individual schools before the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors come before the Panel. As a result, the Members ask relevant but quite challenging questions, and contribute excellently.

The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Forum is an opportunity to look at both Committee's forward work programme, to express opinion and to raise any scrutiny matters. But more importantly the Forum is an opportunity to receive information.

The work of the Panels is valuable and adds value to the Council's scrutiny processes as they enrich our knowledge as Members. I have learnt so much about the complex and broad area of Social Services, and the challenges in which they face, which is very useful for us when scrutinising the work of the Service.

The Members appreciate the importance of reading reports thoroughly which is evident from the questions they ask during the meetings.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The scrutiny development sessions we have received have been very valuable, but I feel it is time for us as Members to receive more training and development sessions to assist us in our role.

I feel that we need to add new work to the work programmes of the Committees and Panels.

There are examples of complex and lengthy reports which are difficult to read. Summaries of the key important matters from the reports would help us as Members to scrutinise, although I fully realise that this is challenging with complex matters.

There is a need for us to strengthen the voices of our communities and inhabitants in the scrutiny process, and introduce the Public Speaking Protocol in Scrutiny Committees that will simplify the process of requesting to speak in Scrutiny Committees, leading to greater engagement and contribution by the community. The Protocol will raise the awareness of the public of their right to speak in Scrutiny Committees.

Scrutiny work can take up to 18 months to two years to see its full value, as plans and decisions do not mature for some time. There is a need to consider how to demonstrate this in the Annual Reports from now on in order to have a full picture of the impact of the scrutiny work on the Council.

B. Senior Leadership Team

Comments were received from the Senior Leadership Team as part of the self-assessment:

The Members ask good scrutiny questions in the monthly briefing sessions, and make a very important contribution to the Council's decisions and work in general.

The scrutiny arrangements are effective and fit for purpose, and is a great strength within the Council's governance arrangements.

The impact of the Development Programme is evident on the Council's scrutiny arrangements, and the scrutiny work undertaken by the Members.

### Looking Forward

In terms of meeting practice, create the conditions for the chairs of the scrutiny committees to introduce the scrutiny questions in the report to start the discussion. Purpose: the scrutiny questions framing the committee's consideration of the subject concerned.

Continue to promote the scrutiny panel's input in terms of their monitoring work and holding to account in particular areas.

Continue with the planning and programming work in order to ensure that the work programmes of both Committees are balanced.

To note in an obvious manner the added value as a result of the input of the Scrutiny Members.

## 5.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2020/21

5.1 The Authority will continue on the next stage of its development journey and the following key areas have been prioritised in the recently published development programme for action over the coming months:

## KEY SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Theme	How	Desired Outcome <sup>1</sup>
<b>Vision</b>	Continue to mainstream our Scrutiny vision, and ensure that every Elected Member and Officer have a robust understanding of scrutiny's purpose and value within the Council's governance.	<b><i>Better outcomes</i></b>
<b>Member Development and Support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further develop the bespoke rolling programme in place to support and develop Scrutiny Members – focus on self-evaluation; chairing skills; scrutiny of performance data; financial scrutiny; information technology matters; E-learning.</li> <li>• Convene short, regular briefing/ development / review sessions with Scrutiny Members.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better decisions</i></b>
<b>Scrutiny Panels</b>	<p>Support the work of the panels through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring the forward work programmes of the 3 Panel align with the Council's corporate priorities.</li> <li>• Developing an evolving focus to the work of the Panels.</li> <li>• Ensuring that the Panels complete self-evaluation exercises at least once a year.</li> <li>• Accountability through reporting on the progress of the Panels' work quarterly, and continue to formalise the routine of reporting to the Scrutiny Committees through the Chairs of the Panel as a matter of course.</li> <li>• Pace of implementation, and detailed scrutiny of data in order to assist the</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better decisions</i></b>

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<sup>1</sup> Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Local Government Overview and Scrutiny – Good Scrutiny? Good Question! Wales Audit Office, 2014

Theme	How	Desired Outcome <sup>1</sup>
	Scrutiny Committees with their scrutiny work.	
<b>Citizen Engagement in our Scrutiny work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further formalise the arrangements to engage with the public, and ensure that the voice of the public is heard in the scrutiny process in line with the recommendation of Wales Audit Office.</li> <li>• Protocol for Public Speaking – mainstream once it receives the approval of the full Council, in order to ensure greater public participation by providing a clear structure for the public to request to speak in Committees.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better engagement</i></b>
<b>Wellbeing of Future Generations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support chairs to develop the role of scrutiny whilst meeting the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.</li> <li>• To fully embed a robust questioning strategy using the Well-being of Future Generations Act to ensure that key scrutiny questions are included in every committee report and are asked in the Panel and Committee meetings.</li> <li>• Ongoing discussion with the Directors and Heads of Service in order to ensure that engagement and the Wellbeing of Future Generations play an important role within our Scrutiny arrangements.</li> <li>• Review our arrangements in order to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the thinking of the Commissioner's Office.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better outcomes</i></b>

Theme	How	Desired Outcome <sup>1</sup>
<b>Public Services Board and partnership working</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to scrutinise the work of the Public Services Board in delivering the Wellbeing Plan and the Board's governance arrangements, and the effectiveness of partnerships in accordance with the national guidelines.</li> <li>Continue to invite key partners to come before the Committees in order to scrutinise their work on the Island.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better engagement</i></b>
<b>Innovative models of Member Scrutiny</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, consider more innovative and effective ways of scrutiny, taking full advantage of technology to this end.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better decisions, better outcomes, better engagement</i></b>
<b>Alignment and Ownership of Scrutiny Work Programmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update the scrutiny panels and committees' work programmes monthly to align with the process of updating the Executive's forward work programme.</li> <li>Ensure a discussion about the forward work programme in every meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs Forum/ committee/ panel, and ensure Members input in forming the work programmes in order to ensure ownership.</li> <li>Make use of the regional and national good practice to steer the work programmes</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better results, better outcomes</i></b>
<b>Self-assessment of our local Scrutiny arrangements</b>	<p>Members to continue to complete self-assessments, which includes identifying recommendations to improve the current scrutiny arrangements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As part of the process of preparing the Scrutiny Annual Report.</li> </ul>	<b><i>Better outcomes</i></b>

Theme	How	Desired Outcome <sup>1</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To assess the results and the impact of our scrutiny panels.</li> </ul>	
<b>Raising awareness/sharing information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise the information regarding the Council's scrutiny arrangements on the Council's website, and amend in order to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Elected Members can succeed in their role</li> <li>Enable the voice of individuals and stakeholders to have a prominent place in the scrutiny process, through providing complete and most recent information to them</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<b><i>Better decisions, better outcomes, better engagement</i></b>

## 6.0 CONTACT SCRUTINY

6.1 To find out more about scrutiny in Anglesey or to give your views please contact:

Scrutiny Unit,  
Isle of Anglesey County Council,  
Council Offices.  
Llangefni.  
Anglesey.  
LL777TW

Anwen Davies	Scrutiny Manager (leading on supporting the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)	(01248) 752578 <a href="mailto:AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk">AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk</a>
Sioned Rowe	Scrutiny Officer (leading on supporting the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)	(01248) 752039 <a href="mailto:SionedRowe@ynysmon.gov.uk">SionedRowe@ynysmon.gov.uk</a>

# **Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report: 2019/20**

## **APPENDICES**

### WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY? National policy context

#### **National context:**

Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. As well as establishing a decision making executive, the Local Government Act 2000 requires one or more scrutiny committees. Their primary role is to hold decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in policy development and review.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)<sup>2</sup> advocates four key principles in support of effective Member scrutiny:

- i. Provide “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and other decision makers
- ii. Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
- iii. Be carried out by “independent minded governors” who lead and own the scrutiny process
- iv. Is evidence based and drives improvement in public services.

In January 2017, the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled “Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed”. The White Paper sought views on proposals for mandatory regional working to deliver a range of services, address workforce issues and implement electoral reform. Welsh Government published a subsequent Green Paper<sup>3</sup> last year explaining its ambitions and proposes a statement of intent for a stronger and more empowered local government in Wales. These proposals set out an approach for the future of local government “to deliver stronger, more resilient and sustainable public services with democratic accountability at its core”<sup>4</sup>. It is anticipated that specific proposals will also be developed relating to Member scrutiny functions both within the local context and also in holding to account services delivered through regional arrangements. It will therefore be necessary for us to continually develop our local scrutiny framework and arrangements in response to the proposed new legislation and evolving national policy context. The Local Government Bill is anticipated later this year.

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<sup>2</sup> Good Scrutiny Guide, Centre for Public Scrutiny 2004

<sup>3</sup> Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for people (20 March, 2018)

<sup>4</sup> Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for people (20 March, 2018, p.2)

### REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP OF OUR SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

The overview and scrutiny function at the Isle of Anglesey County Council continues to be delivered through a structure comprising of two parent scrutiny committees - Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

#### Corporate Scrutiny Committee

##### Remit:

- The focus of work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is to provide assurance regarding the performance and delivery of all services; ensure the council achieves its corporate and service objectives (as outlined in the Corporate Plan, Annual Budget, Budget and Policy Framework, Performance Management Framework, Corporate Policies or their successor plans and policies); and to support and make recommendations for continuous improvement.
- Members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee hold preparation meetings in advance of every committee in order to prepare and focus discussion at the formal meetings of the committee. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2020/21.











##### Membership

- The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Councillor Aled Morris Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Dylan Rees. Ten Elected Members sit on the committee<sup>5</sup> with provision for 4 co-opted members:

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<sup>5</sup> Councillor membership of the Scrutiny Committees reflect the political balance of the Council

## Membership of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Aled Morris Jones ( Chair)	Twrcelyn	Anglesey Independents		Cllr Dylan Rees (Vice-chair)	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Lewis Davies	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr John Griffith	Talybolion	Plad Cymru
	Cllr Alun Roberts	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Nicola Roberts	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Richard Griffiths	Twrcelyn	The Independent Group		Cllr Richard O Jones	Twrcelyn	The Independent Group
	Cllr J Arwel Roberts	Ynys Gybi	Wales Labour Party		Cllr Bryan Owen	Bro Aberffraw	Anglesey Independents

## **PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**











### **Remit:**

- The primary focus of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is to ensure that the interests of the citizens of the Island are promoted, and that best use is made of Council resources, in line with the Council's priorities, that demonstrate added value from working with partners. The remit of the committee includes regional and national arrangements as well as local arrangements.
- The committee is also the nominated Crime and Disorder Committee dealing with crime and disorder matters, as required under Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. It is also the designated committee for scrutinising the work of the Ynys Môn and Gwynedd Public Services Board.
- The Committee has introduced a practice of holding briefing meetings with members prior to each formal scrutiny committee meeting. This is regarded as good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2020/21.

### **Membership:**

- The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was chaired by Councillor Gwilym Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Glyn Haynes. Ten members also sit on this committee with provision for 4 co-opted members:

## Membership of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Gwilym O Jones (Chair)	Llifon	The Independent Group		Cllr Glyn Haynes (Vice- chair)	Caergybi	Labour Party
	Cllr Dafydd Roberts	Bro Rhosyr	The Independent Group		Cllr Vaughan Hughes	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Alun Roberts	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Margaret Roberts	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Nicola Roberts	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Trefor Lloyd Hughes	Ynys Gybi	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Kenneth P Hughes	Talybolion	Anglesey Independents		Cllr Robert Llewelyn Jones	Caergybi	Anglesey Independents

Our scrutiny committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways:

- Consider a topic during a formal meeting
- Consider a topic in more detail by establishing a scrutiny outcome panel OR
- Conduct informal sessions on a particular area of policy.

Again during 2019/20, the scrutiny committees were aware of the need to seek to focus their work on outcomes and within the Wales Audit Office framework of characteristics and outcomes for effective local government overview and scrutiny<sup>6</sup>:

- Better outcomes
- Better decisions
- Better engagement

**Call-in of decisions:** Scrutiny committees can “call-in” a decision taken by either the Executive, Portfolio Holder or an officer to whom the Executive has been delegated with a specific decision making power. The scrutiny committees only exercise a “call-in” when there is good reason to do so (through a Test of Significance), and during 2019/20 this was exercised once, by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee called in the following decision made by the Executive / Portfolio Holder:

**1. Executive Decisions**

- Anglesey Further Education Trust Annual Report and Accounts 2017/18.

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<sup>6</sup> Good Scrutiny? Good Question!, Wales Audit Office, 2014

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **A vision for delivering effective scrutiny in Isle of Anglesey County Council**

#### **Vision**

Scrutiny in Anglesey aims to secure better outcomes for citizens and communities and add to the effectiveness of the Council by helping make public services more transparent, inclusive, accountable and cost effective.

#### **Guiding Principles for Scrutiny in Anglesey**

- Scrutiny is characterised by an atmosphere of mutual trust, co-operation and shared responsibility for achieving the best outcomes for local communities.
- Non-Executive Members are non-political in carrying out their support and challenge roles.
- Scrutiny activity directly broadens the evidence base upon which decisions and programmes of transformational change are predicated by providing a view on how proposals are likely to resonate with local communities.
- Non-Executive Members help ensure that a strategic, long term approach is taken when major service reconfiguration is being considered by providing constructive challenge in testing assumptions, examining risks and challenging how resources are prioritised.

#### **Our Values**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny in Anglesey....**

- Is 'forward and outward' and proactive rather than 'inwards and reactive'.
- Has a clearly defined and valued role in the council's improvement and governance arrangements.
- Is non-political, methodologically sound and incorporates a wide range of evidence and perspectives including those from strategic partners, regulators and the public.
- Is led by councillors who have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively.
- Receives effective support from the council's senior leadership team who ensures that information provided to overview and scrutiny is of high quality and is provided in a timely and consistent manner.
- Takes into account concerns expressed at ward level in a non-parochial way when managing its forward work programme.
- Is well planned, chaired effectively and makes best use of the resources available to it.

- Is recognised by the executive and senior leadership team as an important council mechanism for community engagement, and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance.
- Builds trust and positive relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.